

CLUB REPEATERS

VE3TBR

Phone: 767-7661
Rx/Tx: 146.820/(-) MHz

VE3YQT

Phone: 767-5492
Rx/Tx: 147.060/(-) MHz

VA3OLA

Rx/Tx: 53.050/(-) MHz

VE3BGA

Rx/Tx: 145.450/(-) MHz

WEEKLY BREAKFASTS

Saturdays 10:00 a.m.
Blue Parrot Restaurant

2 METRE NET

Mondays 7:00 p.m.
VE3YQT Repeater.

NEXT MEETING



7:30 p.m., Room 207B
Confederation College
McIntyre Building

SHORTWAVES

Bob Bishop, VE3JAB, had a hip joint replacement operation on February 22nd and is recovering in the Port Arthur General Hospital. This is a major operation and it will take Bob a while before he's back on the dance floor. I'm certain that all the club members and his ham friends, around the world, wish Bob a speedy recovery and a lot of use out of the new hip joint.

Well, I took the plunge and borrowed a TNC (terminal node controller) to try my hand at packet radio. I shouldn't have been so negative about it without having tried it first. A very interesting mode and has a lot of possibilities, even at the 1200 baud rate. For those aren't familiar with packet radio, it's a digital mode of communications that uses your home computer or laptop, a TNC (or packet modem) and your 2 metre HT or base radio. Packet radio allows multiple users to share the same frequency at the same time.

Terry, VE3TKA runs the local packet radio/phone BBS (bulletin board service). If you have a computer and modem, give Terry a call to set you up to access packet via the phone line. This way you can try it out without spending any money.

Gerry, VA3BRN, passed his 12 wpm code test, through a lot of hard work and determination and a little help from his ham radio

friends. So, congratulations Gerry. I know how good you feel. You'll have a lot of fun with CW on 30 metres. You wrote an excellent article (pg. 2) that may help to inspire others to "do the code."

The bands haven't been great. It never fails when you put up a new antenna and want to try it. I've been playing with OCF (off-centre fed) dipoles and built a Carolina™ Windom clone. I'm playing with it to see how it compares to other wire antennas that I've built. It's amazing how many variations of antennas you can make from a roll of copper wire.—Ed.

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Founding President

P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, VE3FW
1881-1972

In honour of the memory of our founding president, Mr. P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, the club call sign is VE3FW.

Senate

Bill Roberts, VE3ARN
Keith Fiske, VE3JQ
Bert Lambert, VE3BKY
Ray Greer, VE3CH
Hugh Elliott, VE3EDW
Bill Klemacki, VE3AJ

Executive Board

President: Ian Mellis, VA3RIM	577-1628
Vice Pres: Ed Baumann, VE3SNW	622-1216
Secretary: Norm Bell, VE3XRC	577-9316
Treasurer: John Watson, VE3GTX	683-3199
Directors: Judy LeFevre, VA3EAP	622-7920
Dave Horne, VA3DVE	344-9325
Don Bel, VA3DPB	473-5482
Rob Van Wyck, VE3FLB	344-7845
Mem.Sec: John Watson, VE3GTX	683-3199
PastPres: Terry. Stewardson, VE3TKA	577-9439
HI-Q Ed: Robert Mazur, VA3ROM	344-7731

Thunder Bay Voyageur Award

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club in cooperation with the City of Thunder Bay, sponsors the Voyageur Award. Any SWL, scanner listener or ham monitoring or working 5 Thunder Bay amateur radio stations qualifies. Send your log copy with dates, times, frequencies, call signs and \$2.00 to the Awards Manager at the club address below.

Club and Newsletter Information

HI-Q is published by the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc., an Ontario registered non-profit corporation. The opinions expressed or implied in issues of *HI-Q* are those of the author. The LARC assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or the information submitted.

Material in *HI-Q* may be copied for non-profit use provided that credit is given to the source. Contributions related to amateur radio, especially those articles of interest to Northwestern Ontario amateurs are encouraged. Material can be submitted in WordPerfect® format or as a text file via fax: 807-345-2688, packet: VA3ROM@VE3TKA, voice mail: VE3TBR repeater user 159 or via email: rmazur@tbaytel.net. Send material or dated announcements no later than the 25th of the month that it is to appear.

To reduce costs, advertising at the following per issued rates is accepted: full-page—\$60.00, 1/2 page—\$40.00, 1/4 page—\$20.00 and 1/8 page—\$15.00. Reduced rates (1/3 off) are available upon receipt of advance payment for 10 issues (one full year). Send your ad copy and cheque (payable to the LARC) to the club address listed below. Advertising in *HI-Q* does not imply an endorsement or recommendation of the product or service.

LARC membership fees are set for the year as follows: regular—\$30.00, associate—\$20.00, associate (attending ham classes)—\$90.00, student (attending school full-time)—\$15.00 and family—\$30.00 plus \$10.00 for each additional family member living at the same address. *HI-Q* is sent to all LARC members but only one copy is mailed to each address.

Mailing Address

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc., Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Avenue, Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 4A3, Canada.

Internet Home Page

Get your copy of *HI-Q* electronically at: <http://www.tbaytel.net/srobb/larc.htm>.

CW in Gerry's World

I must stress how important Morse code is to the amateur radio operator. The most important thing is that you are able to get through, where voice will not. Signal conditions play a big part in communicating with people in amateur radio. When I realized the fact, I put more effort into the my code practice. It was not easy by any means.

I was travelling to Parry Sound for a boat cruise through the three thousand islands in the Georgian Bay area. On the way, I stopped in at the Ontario Science Centre, in Sudbury. I was able to use their ham radio equipment. One piece of equipment was a Bencher paddle keyer along with a billboard that had the Morse code written on it. That gave me my first opportunity to practice with a keyer and I liked it. Unfortunately, there was no one to assist me, so, I was on my own. I did not learn that much while I was at the Science Centre but it gave me the feel for the code, which I needed. When I arrived home, I ordered a Bench keyer. To this day, I have not used a straight key. I probably never will because I like the keyer.

So, here I go. I have a piece of paper in my hand that said, A is dit dah, B is dah dit dit dit, C is dah dit dah dit, etc. I tried that way for a while and that way for me was not going to work. I even took the piece of paper to code classes and that did not work.

With the advice of Lindo VE3NHX, I purchased a TNC model PK-232. It was very beneficial to my success and I still enjoy using it. To make a long story short, I ran into a real gentleman, his name is Nestor

Procup, VE3NPS. He was the person that straightened me out very quickly. The first words to come out of his mouth was that I must get rid of that piece of paper. "What! No way!" But, I consented to do it his way.

So here it is, A is . - , B is - ... , C is - . - . , etc. After all that, my Morse code took off like a bullet. I learned the alphabet within months. I went over to Gerry Lyngstad's, VE3KRZ's house for the 5 wpm test. With the exam successfully completed now I am laughing. I can get on 80 metres. Well, wouldn't you know it? I met a fellow on CW named Mel Cook, N0FOO, from Brainerd, Minnesota. He worked with me, a couple of days. He sent me information on a slow code net on 3710 kHz at 7:00 p.m. local time. Now, I have some friends who will converse with me in slow code.

I would like to give a vote of thanks to David Kimpton, VE3AVS, he was always there for that little bit of encouragement and all that Morse code on VE3TBR. I heard it in the house and driving in the truck. I even had the CW on while I was doing the dishes.

Also, I can't forget that Terry Stewardson, VE3TKA. and Laurie Bridgett, VE3BCD are the main reasons that we have a repeater to broadcast the CW practice sessions.

Thanks to Marian, W8VWY, Frankfort, Michigan on 3560.20 kHz. She was sending at over 20 wpm when I made contact. She slowed down to 12 wpm for me, which I thought was mighty nice of her. She and her husband, had just got back from a weekend of

(Continued on page 6)

Meeting Minutes

by Norm, VE3XRC

Minutes of the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club at the Landmark Hotel, Dawson Road, Thunder Bay, Ontario on February 13, 1997.

The meeting was called to order by the President, VA3RIM Ian Mellis at 7:15 p.m. Grace was said by VE3JAB, Bob Bishop.

Following a delicious prime rib buffet enjoyed by 54 members and guests, a short business meeting was held.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held January 9, 1997 were published in detail in the February edition of *HI-Q* and mailed to all members. **Motion:** moved by VE3SNW, Ed Baumann and seconded by VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki that the minutes be accepted as published. **Carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Due to the absence of the Treasurer, VE3GTX John Watson, the Treasurer's report was not available.

Auditor's Report: The auditor's report was presented by VA3GD, Pat Doherty. Pat and VE3KRH, Steve Robb have reviewed the financial statements of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club and stated that everything is in order. They made two recommendations, the first that the Club consider changing the end of the financial year to August 31st to coincide with the elections in September and secondly that the Club purchase a computerized accounting program for doing the books. This program would be

passed on with the books when there is a change in Treasurers.

Sibley Ski Tour: VE3ICY, Glen Wallace announced that he has 7 volunteers for Saturday, March 1st 1997. If anyone else is interested in working this event, contact Glen.

Project Manager: VA3RIM, Ian Mellis announced that VE3XT, Bill Unger is now the project manger for the Club. Bill has lots of ideas.

"Not Social Convenor:" VE3AVS, Dave Kimpton invited all to the Kamview Ski Night to be held on February 27/97.

Story of VE3AJ, Frank Start: VE3JAB, Bob Bishop has been cleaning out volumes of old books much to the delight of his wife. Bob came across a story of VE3AJ, Frank Start which he passed over to the Club historian VE3UA, Jim O'Brien.

Thanks: The President VA3RIM, Ian Mellis thanked those who were responsible for the arrangements for the annual dinner (VA3EAP, Judy LeFevre, VE3RVA, Bob Hansen, VE3XLB, Linda Bell and VA3MOB, Maureen Bell).

Adjournment: Moved by VA3MOB, Maureen that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried.**

Guest Speaker: The meeting was turned over to VE3RVA, Bob Hansen to introduce the guest speaker. Bob expanded on his thinking process while putting wood on the fire and came up with

an idea for a guest speaker. He then introduced the guest speaker, Capt. Brian Beringer from the Thunder Bay Fire Service.

Brian started out his presentation with a short video showing just how fast a fire in a room could spread. He then walked us through each room in our houses pointing out potential fire hazards. He concluded his presentation by stating that if we had any questions to contact the Fire Prevention Office, Thunder Bay Fire Service. Brian thanked the Club for the invitation and was presented with a small gift by VA3EAP, Judy LeFevre.

50/50 Draw: Winner of the 50/50 draw was Rod McLeod.

Door Prizes: Numerous door prizes were drawn for that had been donated by various individuals.

Musical Entertainment: VE3SNW, Ed Baumann introduced a trio (including himself) who performed several musical numbers for the enjoyment of those in attendance.

HOME WANTED!
FREE. THE CLUB HAS
A COMMODORE 64
DIGICOM-64 TNC
WITH SOFTWARE
FOR SOMEONE WHO
WILL PUT IT TO
GOOD USE.
CALL TERRY,
VE3TKA, IF
INTERESTED.

Armed & Dangerous

by Bill, VE3XT

In an effort to bag more contacts on 30 metres, sixteen members of the LARC have bought 38 specials. This little transceiver will fire 300 milliwatts out on 10 MHz. If modified, it can explode up to 5 watts output.

In an apparent snub to the Minister of Justice, no FAC's (Frequency Agile Capacitors) were required. Instead, rectifier diodes (1N4002's) were used as varactors to control the VFO. The Minister was unavailable for comment.:

The rig was a first place prize winner as part of a design competition for the Northern California QRP Club (NorCal). Ham's will build this rig and then bring it to the hamfest at Dayton as part of the QRP festivities.

When completely outfitted with all the options, this little rig will have RIT, 5 watts output, full

QSK and a built in keyer using a PLC. This is all designed on a 3" by 4" board that is silkscreened and double-sided. The board is manufactured in Canada. The cost of the kit is \$25.00 U.S. For the basic kit, all parts are included except for off-board pots, power and antenna connectors and case. These can be purchased from Radio Shack or supplied from your junk box.

Most of the transmit and receive functions are performed by IC's and only one transistor is used. The PA, in the 300 mW model, is 4 parallel hex inverters. The receiver users a NE602 and is a superhet receiver therefore no direct conversion problems. In total, there are just over 100 parts to solder on the circuit board.

One of the other design criteria was to provide a platform to carry

out experiments and changes to the basic design.

In case you're wondering if you can work anyone with 300 mW, it's only down 4 S units from a 100 watt signal. Or, if with 100 watts your signal is S9, when you reduce power to 300 mW, you would still be S5, which is a very workable signal! (4 S-units means that a signal is 256 times weaker or stronger.—Ed.)

Try reducing your power by half the next time you are working a station, either CW or SSB, and see if the other station notices. This is the first step to QRP.

Once we get all of the kits up and running we will bring them to the Club meetings for "bring and brag." If you would like more information on getting a kit or if I haven't contacted you about your kit give me a call at 344-1848.



Hamming It Up

by Rick, VE6RLA

Hamming It Up—Scoutship Enterprise. To all L.A.R.C. members:

Greetings from Alberta. I am Richard Astle, VE6RLA, also known as "Ranger Rick" by many coworkers and scouters. I am currently the Activity Leader for the "Hamming it Up" program activity at CJ97 and very much looking forward to being in Thunder Bay, in July, to work with the many fine members of the LARC.

My scouting coworker Julie Aardema, a.k.a. "Jewels," from Hinton, Alberta and myself from Oyen, Alberta would like to extend our thanks to the many members of the LARC who have come forward to meet the

challenge of providing the best possible amateur radio experience for as many of the 10,000 plus scouting youth of our country.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the special contributions of those who have taken the lead in Thunder Bay and made my job so much easier and enjoyable. To you, Rob Van Wyck, Ken Rusnak, Terry Stewardson, Steve Robb, Bob Bishop, Pat Doherty, Nestor Procup and Mike Nawrocki many thanks from Ranger Rick and Jewels. We have had many fine contacts to date mostly through email. Jewels and I look forward to many eyeball QSO's in July. I have been reading *HI-Q* and note in the February 1997 issue that

Rob was still looking for volunteers. I know that you will come forward to meet the challenge. Remember, "Success comes in cans, failure in can'ts." I know there are no can'ts in the LARC or Thunder Bay.

Thunder Bay has a special place in my heart. Current River, Boulevard Lake and the High School all hold special memories of my youth and teenage years. I especially look forward to spending time with my family and many new friends. Good scouting and 73—Rick Astle, VE6RLA.

Rick is the son of Bill Astle, VE3LMM an LARC member and Thunder Bay amateur.—Ed.

RAC Report

by Pat, VA3GD

RAC has reorganized the HF Band Plan Committee. It is now the HF Committee and is responsible for all HF matters. The committee has a new Chair, he is Kenneth D. Pyke, VE3OGM, 43 Elwood Drive, West Hill, Ontario, M1C 2C2. His phone number is 416-284-4580, email address <apyke@sympatico.ca>. Ken was a member of the old committee. I was the chair but election as a RAC Director required me to leave the committee. Ken has been involved in radio since 1956 as an SWL, and was licensed in 1983.

The HF Committee will become more important over the next few years. The ARRL has issued an advisory of future changes to the U.S. licensing structure as well as changes to the phone and CW bands covering 160, 80, 40, 15 and 10 metres. The most noticeable change, to Canadian amateurs, will be the expanded phone band on 80 metres. If approved, and I see no reason they will not be, Extra Class U.S. amateurs will have phone privileges down to 3700 kHz. It may be a year or so down the line but we better start planning for it now.

The NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) has issued a report, through the U.S.

Department of Commerce, for HF (3-30 MHz) Spectrum Planning Options. A realignment, along with and expansion of 900 MHz, plus a new band at 4945-4985 MHz could be possible in the future. A very interesting document. If anyone wants a copy, I have it, and can send it as an email attachment.

The World Trade Organization is now involved in the telecommunications field. Sixty-eight countries have agreed to a pact. Satellite systems, cellular phones, data transmissions, etc., will be brought under the WTO's dispute settlement system. The WTO says that liberalizing telecommunications would mean an additional \$1.36 *trillion* in commercial revenue in the next 10 years. Where will it all end up?

The little LEO's are still chasing amateur radio frequencies. Check the RAC homepage <www.rac.ca> for updates. Companies are now approaching radio clubs to convince them that sharing is possible. Kind of scary, isn't it? RAC, along with ARRL and other national organizations, are going to fight these guys tooth and nail. They want 2 metres, which is the base of our VHF communications. Better take out your membership and support RAC, we need each other, more than ever.—73, Pat.

experience, technical expertise and the ability to work with youngsters would help. The above areas are for specific skill and categories but we also need volunteers for operating a station 12 hours a day.

Whatever skill level you have, we can fit in. Whatever time you have, we can work it in. Give us a few hours, a day or possibly a few days of your time. If you are from the district and would like to volunteer, great! Just let us know. We will, where possible, rotate roles so volunteers get exposure in all the areas.

There is a cost of \$25, payable to Scouts Canada, for all volunteers. Scouts Canada will supply each volunteer with a cap, tee shirt and I believe a neck kerchief. For volunteers available for only a very limited time arrangements

can be made to bypass the fee. These will be great souvenirs of the Jamboree and everyone needs another cap! Volunteer coordinators are: Terry, VE3TKA and Ken Rusnak, VE3EFZ.—73, Pat, VA3GD, LARC Publicity Coordinator.

Public Service Events

by Mike, VE3ZG

I will make this month's article short and sweet. From reports received, the Annual Dinner was a success, unfortunately I had to miss it due to other commitments. By the time this reaches everyone, the annual Sibley Ski Tour will have been run. Glen Wallace, VE3ICY, is

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CJ'97 Update

by Pat, VA3GD

The Jamboree is getting closer. The dates are July 12th to 20th, 1997. A number of people have indicated to Rob, VE3FLB, that they would like to volunteer. Now is the time to firm up that commitment. We need help in the

following categories: Operations (Thunder Dome), Operation Hosts (Thunder Dome), Operations Technical (Thunder Dome), teaching assistants (Scoutship Enterprise). Any SWL, amateur radio, teaching

INGENIOUS CW USE

Young Tom, an ex-telegrapher, widowed and almost deaf before age thirty, used his inventiveness to court and win his second wife, Mina Miller. He taught her Morse code so that they could communicate privately in the presence of friends, relatives and Mina's younger, more handsome suitors. Even in the most crowded, noisy room, they could tap out private messages on one another's palms. This gave Tom an advantage that none of the other suitors had!

On an excursion with friends, Mina's family and his five-year-old daughter, Tom cut through the QRN with Morse and asked Mina to be his wife. She blushed and as he eagerly waited for her reply, she taped out "YES" and made Thomas Alva Edison a very happy man. *From 73 Amateur Radio, QRX, June 1980, pg. 88, via the B-N-T Bulletin.*

(CW...Continued from page2)

skiing in Traverse City, Michigan.

I also had a CW QSO, with Wayne Letang, VA3WRL (Wayne Running Loose) and one evening I had a QSO with Rob Van Wyck, VE3FLB.

Meanwhile, all these QSO's have been with the Morse alphabet placed in front of me. I know that some operators will say that I am cheating. But, I will say to them that I am learning by this method and have learned by this method. If someone were to ask me if the preparation for the 5 and 12 wpm exams was hard. I would say, "Yes." It made me physically sick. That went on for 2 years! It became a little easier when I reached the 5 wpm plateau. I was able to listen and send Morse code over the radio on

80 metres. I was very happy that Gerry, VE3KRZ, allowed me to do the 12 wpm test in my home.

It was much easier to do it with equipment that I knew and in familiar surroundings but there I was in the sweat tank, anyway.

I passed and was asked if I would continue the effort to increase my CW speed. My answer was, "Certainly!" I must continue to strive for excellence. I have noticed that I can't stop in the middle of a QSO to look up a word in the dictionary that I have forgotten how to spell. I am off to the Brodie Street library to learn the CW abbreviations. Code operators use a lot of abbreviations and short forms.

I would like to conclude with the saying. "If you do not use it, you will loose it." Hope to see you on CW, soon.—73, Gerry, VA3BRN.

(Public Service Continued from page5)

organizing the event with the help of Norm, VE3XRC; Linda, VE3XLB; Maureen, VA3MOB; Rob, VE3FLB; Wayne, VA3WRL; Ian, VA3RIM and Eric, VE3EBL. The tour is on Saturday, March 1st. Anyone who would like to get their feet wet or cold, can always

help out at the checkpoints. You will have to get up early, breakfast is at 6:30 a.m. No other events are scheduled in March or April according to my calendar, so we can rest before things get into full swing in May which will have at least 2 events. 73—Mike.

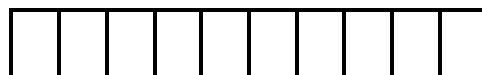
H a m Puzzler

by Dave, VE3AVS

The answers for the February puzzler by Randy, VA3GOT, are as follows:

1. 26 = Letters of the Alphabet.
2. 32 = Degrees Fahrenheit at which Water Freezes.
3. 18 = Holes on a Golf Course.
4. 40 = Days and Nights of the Great Flood.
5. 54 = Cards in a Deck (including the Jokers).

V E 3 S N W



SSBAR



SNIDW



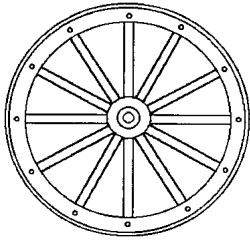
OOIRDT



IICCUTR



Answers in next month's issue of *HI-Q*.



Heritage Amateur Radio Club Cobourg—Port Hope Ontario, Canada

Canadian Provinces Award

All Amateur Radio Stations or SWL's, are invited to cross Canada via Radio and contact as many stations in as many Canadian Provinces as possible... "**Canadians talking to Canadians**"...and earn (**valuable**) points towards the **Canadian Provinces Award**.

- Contacts made in your own province, one time, each contact. 1 point.
- Contacts made in adjoining provinces, one time, each contact. 2 points.
- Contacts made in next removed provinces, one time each contact and so on, each new province counts for another point. 3 points.
- Northwest Territories, 1 point from adjoining provinces.
- Labrador, 1 point from adjoining provinces.
- USA stations can "adopt" nearest Canadian province as "own", i.e., NY—Ont., Mass.—Que., etc.

Examples: Ontario to Quebec or Manitoba 2 points.
Ontario to New Brunswick or Sask. 3 points.
Ontario to P.E.I. or Alberta 4 points.
Ontario to Nova Scotia or B.C. 5 points.
Ontario to N.W.T. 1 point + closest adjoining province to the QTH)
i.e., Yellowknife, 1 point + Alberta, 4 points (closest adjoining province) = 5 points.

NB: N.W.T includes the Yukon, N.W.T. (western Arctic) and Nunavut (eastern Arctic).—Ed.

Total of **100** points for the **Bronze** category, **200** points for the **Silver** category and **300+** points if you wish to go for the **GOLD**. This award all includes a **Family Category** i.e., Father, Mother, Son and Daughter combinations.

Any band, any mode. No QSL cards required. **Stations may be worked only ONCE**. Net check-ins accepted but contacts received as Net Controller are not acceptable. SWL monitoring ham QSO's are accepted.

Commencement Date is 1 February 1997. Please recheck rules before sending application.

Submit a radiolog copy of contacts showing, **Callsign, Mode, Date, Frequency, QTH, Op Name, Province & Points claimed** with a total score & a dupe sheet with an **ALPHABETICAL LIST OF CONTACTS sorted by callsign**. Send a \$5.00 cheque or money order to cover costs to:

**Heritage Amateur Radio Club
Awards Chairman, Eric Olsen, VE3GGO
7 Skye Valley Drive, RR #4
Cobourg, ON K9A 4J7
Canada**